

*The following statement in support of Keep the Spirit of '45 Alive Day by Congressman Bachus was printed in the Congressional Record on August 10, 2010.*

Madame Speaker,

It is my honor to express strong support for the Keep the Spirit of '45 Alive! Day celebrations that will be occurring throughout our country, including at the Alabama National Cemetery in my district.

On August 14, 1945, World War II officially ended, marking a victory for the cause of freedom over tyranny in the world. The Americans who served us on both the battlefield and the home front deserve our lasting gratitude. History will forever celebrate the men and women of the "Greatest Generation" who endured the Great Depression, preserved democracy, and rebuilt the postwar world, creating examples of service that continue to inspire and sustain our nation.

Keep the Spirit of '45 Alive! is a non-profit grassroots campaign to encourage Americans to commemorate the 65th Anniversary of the end of World War II by holding events and inspiring young children to gather personal recollections of August 14, 1945 from family members and friends.

Their goal is to establish a permanent National Day of Remembrance to the legacy of service of the greatest generation so that their example of commitment to community and country will continue to provide inspiration now and in the future. During my meetings, soldiers from Iraq and Afghanistan have often told me how they were inspired by the service of their fathers and grandfathers.

It is my hope that the Spirit of '45 day will serve as an example to Americans of how we always come together with a shared sense of national unity and purpose during challenging times in our nation's history.

The Spirit of '45 Day celebrations will encourage our young people to learn valuable lessons from their elders about overcoming adversity through self-sacrifice, courage, perseverance and service to others.

Therefore, I would like to provide my heartfelt endorsement for the Keep the Spirit of '45 Alive! celebration at the Alabama National Veterans Cemetery on Saturday, August 14, 2010.